

Message Text

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TAGS: EEWT, ENRG, US, UR

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON SOVIET LNG PROJECTS

1. WASHINGTON POST THIS MORNING CARRIED STORY REPORTING ON DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO NORTH STAR AND YAKUTSK LNG PROJECTS. STORY WAS NOT RAISED AT DEPT NOON PRESS BRIEFING TODAY. ANY QUERIES WHICH EMBASSY RECEIVES CONCERNING SOVIET LNG PROJECTS OR POST STORY SHOULD BE REFERRED TO DEPT FOR RESPONSE. FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN IS PROVIDED FOR EMBASSY'S INFORMATION.

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2. QUOTE. US-SOVIET LIQUID NATURAL GAS DEAL

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE STORY THAT THERE HAVE
-- BEEN TALKS BETWEEN MEMBERS OF AN AMERICAN CONSORTIUM
-- AND THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT REGARDING A LIQUID NATURAL
-- GAS (LNG) DEAL?

A: THE STORY RELATES TO RECENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN A
--CONSORTIUM OF AMERICAN COMPANIES AND SOVIET OFFICIALS.

-- THERE HAVE BEEN NO SUCH DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THIS
-- GOVERNMENT AND THE SOVIET UNION.

Q: WHAT IS THE POSITION OF THE US GOVERNMENT REGARDING
-- SOVIET LIQUID NATURAL GAS SALES TO THE UNITED STATES?

A: THE PROPOSAL FOR SALE OF SOVIET LIQUID NATURAL GAS
-- TO THE CONSORTIUM HAS NOT BEEN PRESENTED TO THE UNITED
-- STATES GOVERNMENT FOR ITS APPROVAL. MOREOVER, THE
-- ENERGY RESOURCES COUNCIL IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING
-- THE ECONOMIC AND SECURITY CRITERIA WHICH SHOULD
-- GOVERN ALL LNG IMPORTS. THE US GOVERNMENT IS,
-- THEREFORE, NOT PREPARED TO TAKE A POSITION NOW ON THE
-- SALE OF LIQUID NATURAL GAS BY THE SOVIET UNION. ANY
-- SUCH PROPOSED SALE WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED AT
-- THE TIME THE PROPOSAL WAS PRESENTED, AS A POLICY
-- MATTER WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF OVERALL U.S. ENERGY
-- POLICY.

Q: HAS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DISCUSSED THIS DEAL WITH THE
-- MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN CONSORTIUM?

A: THE CONSORTIUM INFORMED US OF ITS DISCUSSIONS WITH
-- THE SOVIET OFFICIALS AND WAS TOLD THAT WE ARE NOT
-- PREPARED TO TAKE A POSITION ON LNG SALES AT THIS
-- TIME.

Q: COULD THE SOVIET SALE OF 0.55 TRILLION CUBIC FEET/YEAR
-- OF LNG BE ACCOMODATED WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION'S
-- LIMIT OF 1 TRILLION/YEAR IN 1985?

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A: ANY GOVERNMENT LIMITATION ON IMPORT OF LNG WOULD BE
-- PART OF OUR OVERALL ENERGY POLICY, WITHIN WHICH ANY
-- PROPOSAL FOR SOVIET LNG SALES WOULD HAVE TO BE
-- CONSIDERED.

Q: WHAT WOULD BE THE PRICE OF THE SOVIET GAS?

A: WE ARE NOT INFORMED ON THIS QUESTION. SISCO

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